

ADDITIONS TO THE ORCHID FLORA OF BELIZE
(BRITISH HONDURAS)

by H. G. JONES

SUMMARY: Six species are added to the orchid flora of Belize, the former colony of British Honduras : *Laelia* ((*S. Podalaelia*) *inconspicua* H. G. Jones is described as new to science; and *Caularthron bivalvatulum* (Schltr.) H. G. Jones is proposed as a new combination based upon *Diacrium bivalvatulum* Schltr.

Identification of the six taxa listed below was made during the course of preliminary studies undertaken for the purpose of preparing taxonomic and nomenclatural revisions of the five genera to which the species belong. The addition of these six taxa brings to 103 the total number of orchids now known to occur in this former British colony (WILLIAMS 1956).

***Brassavola lineata* Hook.**

Bot. Mag. t. 4734 (1853).

— *Bletia lineata* RCHB. f., Walp. Ann. 6 : 436 (1861).

Previously known from Guatemala and Panama. 4

Many recent authors have included this concept in the synonymy of *B. acaulis* Lindl. (AMES and CORRELL 1953, WILLIAMS 1956); but it seems to me to be readily distinguishable from that species by the following characters : 1) the leaves are longer and narrower; 2) the flower-scape is 2-3-flowered; 3) the flowers are smaller; and 4) the labellum is proportionately narrower and pure white, without any of the purple flecks found in *B. acaulis* (JONES 1970, 1972, 1973a). These two species are easily distinguished from the other members of the genus by the unusual form of the inflorescence, which is borne laterally (JONES 1973b, 1974).

***Brassavola rhopalorrhachis* Rchb. f.**

Bot. Zeit. 10 : 855 (1852).

— *Bletia rhopalorrhachis* RCHB. f., Walp. Ann. 6 : 437 (1861).

— *Brassavola nodosa* var. *rhopalorrhachis* SCHLTR., Orchis 13 : 57 (1919).

Previously known from Guatemala and Panama.

This species is closely related to the well-known *B. nodosa* (L.) Lindl., from which it may be separated by its dwarf habit and strongly branched flower-scape—the latter feature being unique in the genus. To a lesser extent, *B. rhopalorrhachis* is also related to the West Indian species, *B. gillettei* H. G. Jones, which is easily distinguishable by its taller flower-scapes, somewhat campanulate flowers and very differently shaped labellum (JONES 1967).

Caularthron bivalvatulum (Schltr.) H. G. Jones, *comb. nov.*

— *Diacrium bivalvatulum* SCHLTR., Fedd. Rep. 19 : 132 (1923).

Previously known from Costa Rica and Venezuela.

The relationship between this species and *C. bilamellatum* (Rchb. f.) R. E. Schultes is very similar to that between *C. bicornutum* (Hook.) Raf. and *C. amazonicum* (Schltr.) H. G. Jones. The only reliable means of distinguishing these taxa from each other appears to be the form of the calluses on the labellum: in *C. amazonicum* and *C. bilamellatum* these are undivided; whereas in *C. bicornutum* and *C. bivalvatulum* the apex of each callus is divided by a deep sinus into two distinct lobes (JONES 1968a, 1973).

Laelia (§ *Podalaelia*) **inconspicua** H. G. Jones, *sp. nov.*

Affinis *L. rubescens* Lindl. a qua statura minore, foliis multo angustioribus, floribus minoribus, labello minus distincte trilobulato apice acuminato facile distinguitur.

Epiphytica erecta, usque ad 38 cm alta; radicibus gracilibus, albiscentibus, flexuosis, glabris; pseudobulbis oblongo-orbicularis compressis, circa 7 cm longis, medio circa 4 cm lato, apice unifoliatis vel rarius bifoliatis; foliis anguste oblongo-linearibus, apice obtusis, coriaceis, circa 20 cm longis, medio circa 2 cm lato; pedunculo gracili erecto vel suberecto, usque ad 31 cm longo, apice racemoso, laxe paucifloro; floribus illis L. rubescens similibus sed minoribus color distincte candidis: sepalis anguste oblongo-linearibus, margine leviter undulatis, apice acuminatis, circa 1,7 cm longis, medio circa 4 mm lato; petalis late oblongo-linearibus, apice acutis, circa 1,6 cm longis, medio circa 6 mm latis; labello late oblongo, apice abrupte acuminato, supra medio obscure trilobulato, circa 1,5 cm longo, inter apices loborum lateraliem explanatum circa 1,3 cm lato, disco lamellato; columna gracili subcylindrica, anteriore canaliculata, circa 8 mm longa; anthera et pollinia sectionis generis; ovario pedicellato gracili, glabro, circa 1 cm longo.

TYPE : *Herb. Jones. Misc. L/217*, Belize (British Honduras). Flowered under cultivation in Barbados, 1967.

This interesting small-flowered species is closely related to the common *L. rubescens* Lindl., from which it is easily distinguished by the characters set out in the above diagnosis. Under the name *L. rubescens*, it has also been recorded from the Republic of Honduras (WILLIAMS 1956).

Schomburgkia wendlandii (Rchb. f.) H. G. Jones

Amer. Orch. Soc. Bull. 30 : 638 (1961).

— *Bletia wendlandii* RCHB. f., Walp. Ann. 6 : 431 (1861).

— *Laelia wendlandii* RCHB. f., Walp. Ann. 6 : 431 (1861).

Previously known from Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

This rather distinct species is quite different from any of the other Middle American species of *Schomburgkia*: it seems nearest to the South American *S. humboldtii* Rchb. f., from which it may easily be distinguished by its smaller, differently coloured flowers and differently shaped floral segments. I have myself seen no Nicaraguan material of *S. wendlandii*, but a correspondent in the U.S.A. has written to inform me that the species is quite common in the lowland regions of that republic (JONES 1961, 1968).

Teuscheria pickiana (Schltr.) Garay

Rhodora 61 : 41 (1959).

— *Bifrenaria pickiana* SCHLTR., *Orchis* 6 : 8 (1912).

— *Xylobium pickianum* L. O. WMS., *Ceiba* 4 : 271 (1955).

Previously known from Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica, Colombia and Ecuador.

The Belize specimen had slightly larger flowers than those found elsewhere; but apart from this, there were no distinctive features. *Teuscheria* is one of the most fascinating of the smaller genera in the *Phajex*: it was established by GARAY (1958) on the basis of an Ecuadorian species, which he named *T. cornucopia*. In the following year, the same author described another novelty, *T. venezuelana*, and made the necessary nomenclatural transfer to accommodate *T. pickiana*; more recently, DRESSLER (1972) has added a fourth species to the genus, *T. dodsonii*, also from Ecuador.

RÉFÉRENCES

- AMES, O. & CORRELL, S. D. — Orchids of Guatemala. II, *Fieldiana* 26 : 399-727 (1953).
- DRESSLER, R. L. — Una *Teuscheria* nueva del Ecuador, *Orquideologia* 7 : 3-6 (1972).
- GARAY, L. A. — A New Orchid, genus from the Ecuadorian Andes, *American Orchid Society Bulletin* 27 : 820-823 (1958).
- The present status of the recently described genus, *Teuscheria*, *Rhodora* 61 : 35-42 (1959).
- JONES, H. G. — Notes on two interesting species of *Schomburgkia*, *American Orchid Society Bulletin* 30 : 635-638 (1961).
- Preliminary contribution towards a revision of the genus *Brassavola* R. Br. of the *Orchidaceae*, *Boletim da Sociedade Broteriana* 41 : 5-21 (1967).
- The genus *Schomburgkia* in Mexico and Central America, *Ceiba* 14 : 27-37 (1968).
- Notes on a collection of Orchids from the West Indian island of Trinidad, *Candollea* 23 : 295-299 (1968).
- *Orchidaceae americanae*, *Caldasia* 10 : 491-495 (1970).
- Studies in *Brassavola*. II, *American Orchid Society Bulletin* 41 : 493-496 (1972).
- Three additions to the flora of Barbados, *Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society* 34 : 113-116 (1973).
- Synopsis of Middle American *Brassavola*, *American Midland Naturalist* 89 : 499-503 (1973).

- The genus *Brassavola* as an example of infrageneric evolution in the *Orchidaceae*, *Adansonia* **13** : 84-88 (1973).
 - *Orchidaceae* neotropicales. I. *Taxa nova vel minus cognita*, *Novitates Systematicae Plantarum Vascularium* **12** (in press).
- WILLIAMS, L. O. — *Tropical American plants*. I, *Ceiba* **4** : 270-275 (1955).
- An enumeration of the *Orchidaceae* of Central America, British Honduras and Panama, *Ceiba* **5** : 1-256 (1956).

P.O. Box 111
BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS.